JUNE 29, 2007
VOL. LIX, NO. 13
The Second Best Thing About Payday

nih record

ABOVE • *Caution—Goose Crossing. The birds find NIH agreeable this summer. See photo on p. 16.*

features

departments

Second Year in a Row

Bike Day Doubles Attendance, Earns Regional Award

By Jenny Haliski

Despite overcast skies and threats of rain, NIH bike commuters turned out in force for the Washington Area Bicyclist Association's Bike to Work Day on May 18.

With 324 registered participants, NIH hosted about 200 bike commuters at the Bicycle Commuter Club's morning festival in front of Bldg. 1; around 100 more celebrated at the Rockledge and Executive Blvd. offices. The three NIH pit stops together welcomed more participants than most of WABA's city pit stops. Only the Freedom Plaza, Reston and Vienna pit stops had higher attendance than NIH. Across the region, more than 6,600 people biked to work that day.

The strong showing—more than double the 135

SEE **BIKE TO WORK,** PAGE 8

NIH deputy director Dr. Norka Ruiz Bravo displays event T-shirt, which she earned by pedaling from Takoma Park.

What's Next for the Business of NIH? nVision Reports

Chances are good that you have an NIH colleague who remembers "way back when" NIH used paper ledger accounting to report the business of the agency.

The essential business of NIH has not changed, but how we report it certainly has, from 3-foot high paper ledgers to the first computer reporting systems and now, nVision.

This brief update will focus on the new reporting capabilities in support of the NIH Business System (NBS) and free training opportunities.

What can we do now with nVision data and reports?

• Save nVision data in a variety of formats—nVision data can be saved for use with other applications such as Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat Reader.

• Make data retrieval quick and easy—Collect nVision reports that you choose and place them in a separate "favorites" folder.

SEE **NVISION,** PAGE 4

View from the Bridge

Former Naval Captain Provides Leadership Lessons

By Sarah Schmelling

When a new captain takes command of a ship in the U.S. Navy, a ceremony is held. Dignitaries arrive, the crew rolls out a red carpet: in short, it's "a very big deal," explained D. Michael Abrashoff to a packed house in Masur Auditorium recently. But when he arrived for the change-of-command ceremony in which he would become captain of *USS Benfold*, he couldn't believe what he saw: in a less-than-respectful sendoff for his predecessor, the crew cheered.

He immediately decided that, while his crew may never come to like him, he had to earn their trust so at least they could respect him. But what could he do to make that change?

What he did, the way he actually turned the ship around, is an inspirational lesson in lead-

SEE **LEADERSHIP TALK,** PAGE 6

The **NIH Record** is published biweekly at Bethesda, MD by the Editorial Operations Branch, Office of Communications and Public Liaison, for the information of employees of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services. The content is reprintable without permission. Pictures may be available upon request. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the director of the Office of Management and Budget through September 30, 2007.

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nih record

briefs

Free 'Science in the Cinema' Series

In partnership with the American Film Institute Silver Theatre and Cultural Center, the NIH Office of Science Education announces its 2007 free film and discussion series, Science in the Cinema. The series is open to the public and intended for people who enjoy movies and have an interest in science and medicine. This year's topics include drug addiction, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Asperger's syndrome, death with dignity and suicidal patient treatment.

Each Wednesday between July 11 and Aug. 15, a film with a medical science-related theme will be shown at 7 p.m. Following each film, an expert will comment on the science depicted in the movie and take questions from the audience. Tickets are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis through the AFI Silver box office, day of show only. Seating is limited to the first 400 people.

All films will be shown with captions. Sign language interpreters and real-time captioning will be provided for the post-film discussions. If you require other reasonable accommodation to participate, contact OSE at least 5 days before the event at moorec@mail.nih.gov, (301) 402-2470 (voice), (301) 451-9706 (TTY) or through the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

NIH Sailing Association Open House

The NIH Sailing Association invites everyone to its open house on Saturday, July 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Selby Bay Sailing Center in Mayo, Md. There will be demonstration sails for adults in the club's 19-ft. Flying Scot sailboats. Fall sailing classes begin Aug. 22; this is a good chance to preview the boats and meet the members. You can also join NIHSA, sign up for the 6-week adult sailing class, learn about club racing and check out the club's social calendar. There will also be food, drinks and beer for just $5 per person. For directions visit www.recgov.org/sail.

2-Day Functional Genomics Symposium Set

The fifth annual Symposium on the Functional Genomics of Critical Illness and Injury, "Forging a Critical Alliance: Are We Meeting the Need?" will be held at the Natcher Conference Center on Wednesday, Nov. 14 from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, Nov. 15 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The event will assemble multidisciplinary acute and critical care specialists (e.g., intensivists from internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics and anesthesiology), microbiologists, immunologists, cell biologists, molecular biologists, experts in high-throughput technologies and computational scientists to discuss the application of functional genomic approaches to critical illness and injury. Deadline for submitting abstracts is Sept. 14. Registration ends Oct. 15. For more information visit www.strategicresults.com/fg5.

Nitrite Meeting Calls for Abstracts

The Second International Meeting on the Role of Nitrite in Physiology, Pathophysiology and Therapeutics will be sponsored by NHLBI, NIDDK, the Clinical Center's critical care medicine department, Wake Forest University and the NIH Office of Rare Diseases. The meeting will take place Sept. 6-7 in the Natcher Conference Center. Deadline for abstract submissions is July 22. The meeting's web address is www.strategicresults.com/nitrite2. For more information contact Rini Mondal, rini@strategicresults.com.

FAES Announces Fall Courses

The FAES Graduate School at NIH announces the schedule of courses for the fall semester. The evening classes sponsored by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences will be given on the NIH campus.

Courses are offered in biochemistry, biology, biotechnology (daytime courses), chemistry, immunology, languages, medicine, microbiology, pharmacology, statistics, technology transfer, alternative medicine and courses of general interest. A technology transfer certificate program is also being offered.

It is often possible to transfer credits earned to other institutions for degree work; many courses are approved for category 1 credit toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award.

Classes will begin Sept. 17; mail registration ends Aug. 17 and walk-in registration will be held from Aug. 28-Sept. 5. Tuition is $115 per credit hour and courses may be taken for credit or audit. Courses that qualify for institute support as training should be cleared with supervisors and administrative officers as soon as possible. Both the vendor's copy of the training form and the FAES registration form must be submitted at the time of registration. Note that FAES cannot access training forms entered in the NIHTS system; a signed hard copy (vendors' copy of SF 182 form) is needed in order to process registrations for classes. Asking your institute to pay your tuition is a preliminary step to registration but does not constitute registration with the FAES Graduate School.

Catalogs are available in the graduate school office in Bldg. 60, Suite 230; the Foundation Bookstore in Bldg. 10, Rm. B1L101; and the business office in Bldg. 10, Rm. B1C18. To have a catalog sent, call (301) 496-7976 or visit www.faes.org.

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On hand for a recent CURE program workshop were (from l) Traci Mitchel, Dr. Emmanuel Taylor, Dr. Kenneth Chu, Bobby Rosenfield, Dr. Leslie Cooper, Dr. Sanya Springfield (c), Tarsha McCrae, Dr. Brian Kimes, Dr. Peter Ogunbiyi, Dr. Nelson Aguila, Belinda Locke, Lashell Gaskins, Le Ann Bailey, Tricia Penalosa, Dr. Roland Garcia and Dr. Mary Ann Van Duyn.

PHOTO: BILL BRANSON

NCI's CURE Program Boosts Minority Careers

NCI's Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) Program celebrated its 10th anniversary in May. For many researchers from diverse populations across the country, the program has served as a springboard for careers as independent competitive cancer investigators.

Dr. Maria Elena Martinez, now an associate professor of epidemiology and nutrition and co-director of the prevention and control program at the University of Arizona in Tucson, is a good example. Born in Mexico, she is currently principal investigator on an NCI research project grant (R01) focused on delineating the causes of advanced colon tumors after surgery and anticipates publishing current findings from these studies late this year. Martinez credits encouragement from NCI's Dr. Sanya Springfield and the CURE program's Mentored Career Development Award (K01)—which supported her early studies on mutagens in meat—with providing the basis for her current research.

Martinez had participated in CURE's annual professional development and peer review workshops. These provide opportunities to learn about the NCI grants process, network with NCI staff and other junior minority investigators from around the country and participate in a mock version of the NIH grants peer review process.

"Before CURE, being a young Hispanic junior scientist involved in the whole grants process and competing against some of the best scientists in the country was quite intimidating," Martinez said. "CURE not only supported my research, but also encouraged me to become an independent cancer investigator."

Dr. Natalie Eddington, now chair of the department of pharmaceutical sciences, University of Maryland in Baltimore, also credits the CURE program as contributing to her success.

Eddington, who grew up in an inner-city District of Columbia neighborhood, acknowledges an elderly elementary school teacher with encouraging her to go beyond her parents' dreams. After graduating *summa cum laude* from the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Howard University, she went on to receive her doctorate from the University of Maryland in Baltimore. In 2001, she received a K01 to study modulation of the blood brain barrier as a way to enhance the effectiveness of chemotherapy in the central nervous system. Building on these results, Eddington has gone on to become principal investigator on several research project grants and exploratory/developmental grants.

"We originally designed CURE to provide a continuum of research opportunities for students and investigators from diverse populations from high school through their first academic appointment," said NCI's Springfield, director of the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities. "Students receive hands-on training in clinical, basic science and population-based cancer research."

Today, CURE supports students through their undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral programs in cancer using research supplements, fellowships and career development awards. Last year, $28.8 million was allocated to the CURE program.

Many CURE recipients are now established faculty and researchers at major academic institutions and cancer centers such as Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center at Northwestern University and the University of California, San Diego.

Over the last decade, CURE has supported 1,119 underrepresented minority investigators. More than 130 gathered for a recent 2-day workshop marking the 10th anniversary.

NVISION

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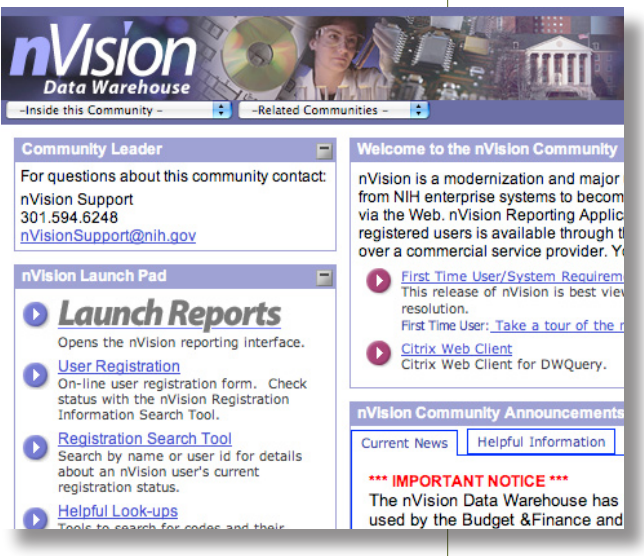


• Find the specific report that meets your needs—Use the nVision search feature that finds reports by title, folder name or individual field name.

• Take advantage of enhanced reporting capabilities—Use links that display detail information within summary reports; modify a report "on the fly" by dragging and dropping additional data columns onto a report, changing the sort order or changing the font size or color.

What are the nVision reporting capabilities?

• Standard Reports—Prebuilt reports that are quickly generated and used as designed.

• Modifiable Reports—Prebuilt template reports that can be modified on the fly by the user.

• Ad-Hoc Reports—Start-from-scratch reporting; collections of data will be made available to users to create their own reports.

To register for access to nVision and enroll in a free training class:

• Go to the nVision community on the NIH Portal my.nih.gov for access instructions and more on reports.

• Check out CIT Training at training.cit.nih.gov.

Where can we go for additional help?

• Send email to nVisionSupport@nih.gov with your questions.

• Keep current with nVision developments, including registration, training and general information by visiting the nVision community on the NIH Portal.

• As always, you are also welcome to contact the NIH Help Desk: ithelpdesk.nih.gov/; (301) 496-4357; (866) 319-4357 (toll free); (301) 496-8294 (TTY).

What's next for nVision?

NBS remains the primary source for NIH business information; nVision will continue to provide the capability to perform detailed analysis of NBS data through its reporting capabilities.

The following three new nVision business areas have been or will soon be deployed to support the NBS roll-outs:

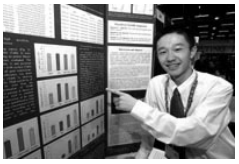
• Acquisitions & Contracts—Use to track receiving, invoicing and payments; monitor contract closeout and reconcile accounts; analyze acquisition activity by transaction type across an IC; monitor workload; evaluate contract cost in support of budget formulation; improve acquisition cycle time; and ensure receipt information is entered for all deliveries.

• Supply and Replenishment—Use to improve stock replenishment acquisition cycle time; monitor stock items due for delivery to the warehouse; identify stock items overdue from the vendor; support OFM audits and monitor sales at the Self Service stores.

• Property—Use to track and monitor undecaled property; research decal numbers; track property trade-in; manage the disposal of assets; and monitor loans and passes.

Intel Honors NCI High School Intern

A teenage intern in NCI's Center for Cancer Research is one of three high school students who earned top honors at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair held recently. Each received an Intel Foundation Young Scientist Award and a $50,000 college scholarship.



Dayan "Jack" Li has been interested in "the mysteries of human anatomy" since he was a young child. The 17-year-old Eleanor Roosevelt High School senior from Greenbelt, Md., who interned at NIH last summer and fall, dove right into an area that's been puzzling scientists for years: how to prevent cancer.

Li has been working in Dr. David Roberts's lab and returns there this summer.

"Specifically, I looked at tumor markers in endothelial cells," he explains. Working with cells from the inside of human umbilical veins, Li examined the effects of thrombospondin-1 (TSP-1) and nitric oxide (NO) on angiogenesis. The goal: to determine how to inhibit this process—essential to tumor growth and metastasis—and thus inhibit cancer.

Past studies in mice in Roberts's lab had shown a TSP-1-induced NO functional switch in endothelial cells that was of physiological importance. For his project last summer, Li used real-time PCR to study several genes that could be regulated downstream of this switch in human endothelial cells. His work showed that some of these genes are regulated by the TSP-1-induced NO functional switch in human endothelial cells and could be responsible for its effects on angiogenesis. "Such a finding clarifies NO's friend-foe reputation and the contradictory tumor responses to TSP-1-releasing drugs, thus prompting a re-evaluation of the drugs to make them safer and more efficient," said Li.

The Intel fair is the world's largest pre-college celebration of science. Held annually in May, it brings together nearly 1,500 students from more than 40 nations to compete for scholarships, tuition grants, internships, scientific field trips and the grand prize—a $50,000 college scholarship.

NHGRI's Dr. William Gahl (c) accepts the Public Health Leadership Award from Estelle Benson of the NORD board of directors. Also on hand is Dr. Stephen Groft, director of the NIH Office of Rare Diseases.

NHGRI's Gahl Wins Public Health Leadership Award

Dr. William A. Gahl, clinical director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, received the 2007 Public Health Leadership Award from the National Organization for Rare Disorders on May 21 at the group's Tribute Banquet in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1983, NORD serves rare-disease patients and their families with programs that include advocacy, research and education about the more than 6,000 rare disorders that together affect approximately 25 million Americans.

A senior investigator in NHGRI's Medical Genetics Branch, Gahl also serves as director of the Intramural Research Program of the NIH Office of Rare Diseases. An internationally known expert on cystinosis, Hermansky-Pudlak syndrome, alkaptonuria and disorders of sialic acid metabolism, he was honored for his unwavering support of the rare-disease community. In addition to his NIH work, Gahl serves on the medical advisory boards of the Cystinosis Foundation, the Cystinosis Research Network and the HPS (Hermansky-Pudlak syndrome) Network.

Gahl also spoke June 13 at an international conference organized by the Alkaptonuria (AKU) Society at University College London Hospital. In association with that meeting, he delivered a statement about AKU at the House of Lords in the U.K. Parliament.

AKU is a progressive, inherited condition that affects 1 in a million people, causing a malfunction in a single enzyme involved in the breakdown of tyrosine, an amino acid building block of protein. The malfunction causes dangerous accumulation of the pigment homogentisic acid throughout the body. This causes serious complications for patients, including arthritis of the spine and large joints and heart problems.

Gahl presented data from clinical trials of a potential AKU treatment, called nitisinone. "Over a century after AKU was discovered, we're getting close to being able to help those people affected," he said. "But crucial hurdles still remain in understanding the disease before we have a certain treatment."

LEADERSHIP TALK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Abrashoff (l) chats with members of the audience following his recent talk in the Deputy Director's Management Series.

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON

ership and the reason he came to speak at NIH as part of the Deputy Director for Management Seminar Series.

"There are a lot of leaders in this room with a reputation for excellence," he said about his NIH audience. "But no one is perfect." He suggested that everyone should take time to think about their own "leadership journeys," and to realize that even if you're a successful leader, you can always be better.

Abrashoff's "leadership journey" is a powerful story, one that led him to write the bestseller *It's Your Ship: Management Techniques from the Best Damn Ship in the Navy*. Published in 2002, the book details Abrashoff's experience in taking a ship with one of the poorest performance records in the Pacific Fleet—with crew morale to match—and making it, true to the title, one of the Navy's best. The book's success led to a sequel, *Get Your Ship Together: How Great Leaders Inspire Ownership from the Keel Up*. The first book has been recognized as a strong tool for leading any kind of business. One of his biggest sources of pride for the book, Abrashoff said, was when New England Patriots Coach Bill Belichick, in an interview, cited it as a partial source for improving his leadership skills.

Abrashoff's management lessons can also apply to NIH. Just like supervisors here, he said, in the Navy he had to oversee a group of government workers who needed a strong leader. When he took command of the ship, the crew had a dismal retention rate, and like those in the audience, he said, he "couldn't order people to stay." He had to give his crew a reason to come to work each day. He decided to conduct exit surveys to learn why people were leaving, expecting the prime reason to be the pay rate. Instead, he said, pay was reason number five. People said they didn't want to stay because they weren't being treated with respect, they didn't feel they were making an impact on the organization, they weren't being listened to and they weren't being rewarded with additional responsibility. Abrashoff decided he had to work on changing this.

"Just because we're government workers doesn't mean we're second-class citizens," he said. He walked around the deck every morning, getting to know every person in his crew. He listened to ideas and put them into action, and recognized people for strong performances every chance he had. "I decided I would always put myself in their shoes," he explained. "And if something didn't make sense to them, I knew I had to communicate better."

In his last year overseeing the ship, the retention rate was almost 100 percent.

Still, he noted, no one is a born leader, so it's important to think about leadership role models. His included the namesake of the ship he commanded, Edward Benfold, who became a hero of the Korean War when he saved other Marines by picking up thrown grenades and charging into enemy soldiers, sacrificing his life in the process. "I wanted to lead the crew of the ship named for him with that same integrity," Abrashoff said.

He also suggested looking to one's experiences to form leadership ideas. One event that greatly affected him occurred in 1990: he was on a ship south of Kuwait when Iraq invaded the country. The crew saw on their radar what they believed to be enemy fighters coming toward them, and Abrashoff thought they had a 50 percent

chance of shooting them all down. It turned out the planes were not the enemy and changed course, but the idea that his crew could have had just a 50 percent chance of survival hit Abrashoff hard.

"I started thinking about what we could have and should have done differently," he said, adding that in the year before that, the crew had spent more time "fighting among ourselves" than anyone else and they obsessed more about things they had no control over. "I realized we had an opportunity to be our best if we resolved to work together," he said. They could look for things they could change while remembering "the fact that things have always been done a certain way is never an excuse."

On *Benfold*, Abrashoff put these ideas in action. He overcame the bureaucratic process of awarding medals by personally handing them out whenever he found the occasion: "I never let paperwork prevent me from recognizing someone." He broke 200 years of Navy tradition by getting in the back of the line for lunch just like anyone else and sitting with his crew instead of separating himself as an officer. He started a "Division in the Spotlight" program that looked in-depth at the achievements and issues for each unit of the crew to demonstrate it wasn't "a one-man show, that we have to work together as a team." He set up a distance-learning program and brought on board an SAT counselor to help crew members improve their education.

But most importantly, he listened to individual concerns and took action on valuable ideas. When he asked one sailor what he would change about *Benfold*, he learned the crew was constantly repainting the ship, primarily because of metal plates, nuts and bolts made of material that rusted. Abrashoff had all of these materials replaced with stainless steel and the crew didn't have to paint again for 10 months, saving a great deal of money and time. Now, stainless steel is used on every ship in the Navy, "all because of a 21-year-old sailor who said something."

Abrashoff also considered ideas for making life on the ship more enjoyable. He bought a stereo system and played jazz every Thursday evening while the crew watched the sun set, creating "a sense of friendship, of community," and a sense of purpose.

As he made these changes, the ship received recognition for its advances, his method of "grassroots leadership" garnered articles in *Fast Company* and other publications and his crew developed pride in their ship and loyalty to their captain. At Abrashoff's change-of-command ceremony—to which he shipped in lobsters for everyone—he simply said to his crew, "You know how I feel." A crew member told him later that when Abrashoff departed the ship, there wasn't a dry eye on board.

All of these lessons can be applied to leadership at NIH, he said. We can all regard other staff members with respect and dignity, listen to their concerns and treat no one like they're "second-class citizens." Just like "every one of us here," he said, "I'm a lifelong government employee, and we all have a leadership story to write."

He added that though "we've all done well in this room," everyone can look at ways to improve with a constant eye on the bigger picture. "Think about what your change-of-command ceremony will be like," he advised. "Will it be to cheers or tears?"

Recruiters Mark World Blood Donor Day

The recruitment staff at the Clinical Center's department of transfusion medicine celebrated June 14, World Blood Donor Day. "It's important to raise appreciation and awareness," said Al Decot (above, l), donor resources coordinator. "The average age of blood donors is 45—that's why the appeal goes out to younger donors, to get them involved, as well as lifelong donors." The foundation of a safe blood supply is volunteer, unpaid donors, to whom World Blood Donor Day is dedicated. In the group photo above are (front, from l) Margaret Dodson, Sparkle Lonesome, Phyllis Byrne and Jackie Brown. At rear are (from l) Decot, Hal Wilkins, Amy Melpolder and Sarah Harris.

PHOTOS: BELLE WARING

BIKE TO WORK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

***Top, l**:*
Mary Lilly, an investigator at NICHD, rides to campus with her 4-year-old daughter Sarah Kuziora.

***Top, r**:*
NIH Bicycle Commuter Club President Angela Atwood-Moore (l), a research associate in the Laboratory of Gene Regulation and Development, NICHD, and Jill DiMauro, owner of Proteus Bikes, hold a blender with iced coffee steady while co-owner Yo Kumm pedals a bike-powered blender. Atwood-Moore wore and distributed the club's first specially designed jerseys, which designate cyclists as "non-polluter commuters."

***Below**:*
A line of bike commuters waiting to check-in at the welcome tent in front of Bldg. 1 stretches down the sidewalk during the morning rush.

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON

NIH cyclists who registered for the event last year—allowed the club to defend its 2006 title for the highest employee participation in the event among Washington, D.C.-area employers from the Metropolitan Council of Governments.

NHGRI had the highest institute participation rate, while NCI won the prize for the highest cumulative bike-commuting mileage. Institute directors Drs. Francis Collins and John Niederhuber will each be awarded one $50 Bike Bucks note, which may be given to a staff member to spend at Proteus Bicycles, and an NIH bike club cycling jersey, featuring the club's new logo.

Maggie Beddall of NIMH recruited IC directors for the inaugural NIH inter-institute challenge on behalf of the club to ride for the day and recruit other staff to join them. Collins, Niederhuber, Dr. Duane Alexander of NICHD and Dr. Richard Hodes of NIA took her up on the challenge by sending emails encouraging their employees to participate in the event.

The friendly competition didn't stop club members from collaborating to orchestrate group rides to show new bike commuters time-honored safe routes to their NIH destinations. NHGRI's Peter Chines coordinated group bicycle-caravans from several community checkpoints. Also heading group rides were Diane Bolton of NIAID, Steve Friedman of NCI, Tom Gill of OD, Marc Gwadz of NLM, David Hurwitz of NLM, Nick Jakubovics of NIDCR, Sandra Menzies of OD, John Pugh of CSR, Lisa Vasquez of NCI and Al Yergey of NICHD.

CSR's Jonathan Ivins commuted a staggering 71-mile total on Bike to Work Day, participating in multiple NIH convoys and pedaling through several WABA pit stops. But even shorter commutes add up. According to club estimates, NIH bike commuters accumulated 3,184 miles for the day, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 3,200 pounds.

Once bikers arrived at their NIH pit stop and grabbed a cup of coffee and breakfast food, they could also win a prize in a bike-themed raffle, pick up free WABA T-shirts, buy customized NIHBCC jerseys, register to participate in the

club's Bike Bucks program and exchange information with other cyclists. City Bikes mechanic Paul Reighard provided free bike checks and tune-ups to bike commuters. Patty Yergey distributed water bottles and stickers on behalf of the Chesepeake Bay Foundation to emphasize the connection between greener commuting and a healthier environment.

NIHBCC President Angela Atwood-Moore, a research associate in the Laboratory of Gene Regulation and Development, NICHD, said she was "ecstatic to see a long line and a giant crowd of cyclists all huddled onto the patio in front of Bldg. 1. I think we sent a message to the NIH community that we're here and that bike commuting can be fun!"

Sanford Markey, a senior investigator with NIMH, has biked to work for 30 of the 33 years he has worked at NIH. "Once you start biking, you don't want to drive again, knowing that you could get there on a bike," said Nicki Devore, who works for FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research on NIH's campus. "It's better for the gas bill, the environment and your health."

Several NIH'ers regularly make bike commuting a family affair. Mary Lilly, an investigator in NICHD, rides in with her 4-year-old daughter Sarah Kuziora, who attends day care at Parents of Preschoolers, Inc. Giovanni Cardone, a postdoctoral visiting fellow at NIAMS, brings his 22-month-old daughter Maria with him to campus by bike.

Ava Asher, an NIAID fellow, demonstrated her dedication to bike commuting by making her regular commute from Van Ness even though her tires went flat the night before and again at the end of her commute. "I found a way to commute by bike that avoids any traffic," she said, noting that it takes her the same amount of time to commute by bike as it does to take public transportation.

NCI's Friedman, deputy chief of the Protocol and Information Office in the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program, feels that everyone should give bike commuting a try because of the positive contribution it makes to the environment and health. "We within the federal government should be leaders in that area," he said.

For more information about bike commuting, including routes, club mentors' contact information, a list of NIH shower, locker and parking facilities and a moderated list-serve where members can ask questions and share information, visit www.recgov.org/r&w/nihbike/.

On hand for the White House award are NIH'ers (from l) Capt. Ed Rau, Dan Reggia, Diane Frasier and Don Wilson.

NIH Receives White House Electronics Recycling Award

Do you ever wonder how NIH handles the thousands of pieces of computer equipment that turn over here and how we minimize the environmental impact of this activity?

NIH was recently selected by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) as a winner of the 2007 Federal Electronics Reuse and Recycling Campaign as a result of its emphasis on recycling and reuse. Federal agencies were encouraged to compete in this campaign which began last November and ended in March. NIH won in the large civilian agency category based on the quantities of used electronic equipment that were reused or recycled. The total last year was over 260 tons.

NIH received the honor at a ceremony held at the White House. Accepting on behalf of NIH were: Diane Frasier, director, Office of Acquisitions Management and Policy, OFM; Dan Reggia, chief, Property Utilization Branch, OLAO; Don Wilson and Capt. Ed Rau, Division of Environmental Protection, ORF.

The award-winning program is operated by the Property Utilization Branch, OLAO. Their first goal is to reuse property within NIH. Laboratories here frequent the warehouse in Gaithersburg in search of various types of scientific and computer equipment that is available to them at no cost. Many items are in excellent condition. Other federal agencies in the area can also obtain the equipment; the FDA, NIST, USGS, Departments of Defense and Justice and the Smithsonian Museums are the most frequent customers. Each year, $10 million to $20 million of NIH equipment is reused by other federal agencies, eliminating the need to purchase new equipment and saving taxpayer dollars.

NIH also operates an extensive school donation program for public and private schools (grades K-12) that can generally qualify to receive computers, printers, monitors and other IT equipment. Colleges and universities throughout the country can also qualify for donations of scientific equipment. In all, the branch averages $25 million to $30 million in equipment donations to schools annually.

Electronic equipment not acquired by federal agencies or schools is either sold or shipped to a General Services Administration facility for recycling. The recycler pays the government for the items. Proceeds from sales are used to offset NIH disposal and operating costs. The current recycling facility meets all EPA regulations and certifications for processing and disposal of the equipment.

Environmental improvement goals such as these are supported by the NIH Environmental Management System (NEMS); many employees are working to help find ways for NIH to minimize its environmental impact. For more information on NEMS, visit www.nems.nih.gov or email green@mail.nih.gov.

Roberts Lecture Series Highlights Follicular Lymphoma

The women scientist advisors committee and the Office of Research on Women's Health recently presented the Anita B. Roberts Lecture Series: Distinguished Women Scientists at NIH. Featured speaker Dr. Elaine Jaffe, chief of the hematopathology section and acting chief of the Laboratory of Pathology, NCI, discussed "The Many Guises and Disguises of Follicular Lymphoma."

"There are approximately 40 different types of diseases derived from lymphocytes, i.e., 'lymphomas,'" said Jaffe. "Our studies are aimed at better defining lymphoma types as a first step in identifying their origin or pathogenesis." Jaffe has described *in situ* follicular lymphoma, a stage in the evolution of follicular lymphoma that helps unravel the earliest causal events.

"Today we think of tumors as a multi-step evolution, where in a single patient an accumulation of genetic 'hits' [mutations, deletions] take place over time," she said. "Follicular lymphomas frequently progress, and the diverse patterns of disease progression help us to understand not only follicular lymphoma, but also other lymphoma types." Also of great relevance in follicular lymphoma is the effect of the patient's immune system, which plays a role in determining how aggressive the tumor will be. Jaffe's work stresses the clinical implications of diagnoses, emphasizing the role of pathologists as clinical consultants.

The lecture series is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Anita B. Roberts, who was chief of the NCI Laboratory of Cell Regulation and Carcinogenesis. She was regarded as an exceptional mentor and scientist. The lecture series will continue to highlight the research of other top women scientists at NIH who promote Roberts's legacy.—**Marsha Love**

ORWH's Pinn Receives Outstanding Medical Alumnus Award

Dr. Vivian Pinn, NIH associate director for research on women's health, received the Walter Reed Outstanding Medical Alumnus Award from the University of Virginia Medical Alumni Association during the university's recent medical alumni reunion weekend. In the top photo, Pinn is presented with the award by Dr. Arthur Garson, Jr., (l) dean and vice president of the University of Virginia School of Medicine, and Barry J. Collins, medical alumni association executive director and associate dean for medical alumni affairs. The award is given "in recognition of professional accomplishments, exemplary leadership in the field of medicine, and commitment to the alumni association," according the association's newsletter. A 1967 graduate, Pinn said she shares the award with the rest of her U.Va. School of Medicine classmates (some of whom joined her in the bottom photo), asserting that her accomplishments were made possible only through their support.

Principles of Clinical Pharmacology Course

The Principles of Clinical Pharmacology course, sponsored by the Clinical Center, will begin in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10 on Sept. 6. The course will be held Thursday evenings from 6:30 to approximately 7:45 and will run through Apr. 24, 2008. "Many medical schools don't offer formal courses in clinical pharmacology," said Dr. John Gallin, director of the Clinical Center. "This program covers what researchers need to know concerning the clinical pharmacologic aspects of drug development and use."

The course covers topics such as pharmacokinetics, drug metabolism and transport, assessment of drug effects, drug therapy in special populations and drug discovery and development. "We have assembled an outstanding faculty for this course, drawing from the scientific staff at the NIH, the FDA, the pharmaceutical industry and many prestigious academic institutions in the U.S.," said Dr. Juan Lertora, director of CC clinical pharmacology.

The faculty, led by former course director Dr. Arthur J. Atkinson, Jr., has also prepared and edited a textbook, *Principles of Clinical Pharmacology, Second Edition* (2007) that follows the sequence of the course lectures. This textbook is highly recommended and is available in the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, Inc. Bookstore in Bldg. 10 and through Amazon.com.

Since the course was first offered 10 years ago, it has expanded beyond the CC to include a number of off-site partners. Last year there were approximately 240 students from 10 long-distance partners in addition to the nearly 400 enrollees at NIH.

Registration is open to all interested individuals at no cost unless the course is being taken for graduate credit. The course may be taken for credit through FAES as PHAR 500 I and PHAR 500 II; contact FAES directly at (301) 496-7976. Deadline for registration is Aug. 23. Certificates of participation will be awarded at the end to all students who attend 75 percent of the lectures. More information is available at www.cc.nih.gov/ccc/principles or by calling Donna Shields, (301) 435-6618.

milestones

NIH Fire Chief Hess Retires

By Brad Moss

What was supposed to be the highlight of Gary Hess's career as NIH fire chief finally came down to a spur-of-the-moment decision. After many trials and tribulations in securing funding, working with designers and closely following construction of the new NIH Fire Station, Bldg. 51, he couldn't stand it any longer. "I remember it was getting cold, we had the fire trucks sitting outside. Finally, I just said, 'We're moving in.' I just took the fire trucks and parked them in there" even though the station was not quite finished.

This steadfast attitude exemplifies Hess's 20-year career at NIH, 10 years as chief. He began at NIH as a temporary, part-time employee in 1986. After a few months, he joined the Walter Reed Medical Center fire department. In 1987, he returned as a full-time firefighter, rose to the rank of technician in 1988, assistant fire chief in 1990 and finally chief in 1997 with the departure of ex-chief Bill Magers.

Along with completion of Bldg. 51, many other improvements took place under the leadership of Chief Hess. He was instrumental in upgrading the minimum number of firefighters on the floor at any one time from 6 to 10. Eleven positions were added under his tenure. Today, the staff includes 31 employees including a new safety training officer.

There were upgrades to all of the fire and rescue resources, too, including a new ladder truck and hazardous material equipment. "A lot of things were starting to be replaced by Chief Magers and Gary just took it to the next level and really got it to a point where they are self-sustaining now," said J.P. McCabe, NIH fire marshal.

Hess said NIH moved to the forefront of hazardous materials because nobody else knew what to do in the early days when hazardous response procedures were being developed. Compared to when he first started, Hess said it is "a 500 percent improvement as far as the analytical equipment, training of the people" and the ability to respond to all the situations that come up with a multi-faceted facility like NIH.

"We are a big city here. It's not like we just have office buildings. We have virtually every type of

occupancy, a diverse population, all kinds of hazards, over 5,000 laboratories," McCabe said. The NIH Fire Department is able to mitigate some situations that would otherwise shut down a building. "That group at the NIH is incredible and that was something Gary pushed for all the time. He never let up. If he felt something was right, he pushed and pushed and pushed until he got his point across. It didn't go away…he fought for what is right. He fought for his staff," McCabe added.

With these advances came recognition. "With Chief Hess's leadership, the NIH Fire Department has set the standard that others strive to duplicate," said Jonathan Mattingly, assistant chief. "They are not only well regarded here in this area, but across the country people are aware of the NIH Fire Department, especially in the area of hazardous materials response," added McCabe.

The department's relationship with the county and surrounding jurisdictions has also hit a high point. NIH is asked to help in the local area with fire and rescue calls that require assistance; the favor is returned whenever NIH needs extra help, referred to as mutual aid.

"We are running quite a few mutual aid calls, but its benefit far outweighs its cost," Hess said. "You are working with the same people every day so when something big happens, you're not meeting each other face to face for the first time. Everybody knows each other. Before it was hit or miss and we had a lot of problems; now we are respected among our peers…it is a very good working relationship with the surrounding jurisdictions."

Hess didn't begin his career as a firefighter. He started out as an apprentice journeyman plasterer. But he was always active as a volunteer firefighter. Before coming to NIH, he was volunteer fire chief of Charles County and volunteer deputy and assistant fire chief in Prince George's County.

In retirement, he plans to continue as a volunteer firefighter with the Charles County Fire Department. He will also help the Cobb Island Volunteer Fire Department, in southern Charles County, build a new fire house.

He also plans to spend a lot of time with his wife of 35 years, his father, three children, four grandchildren and a 7-year-old niece. He is also an outdoorsman. Future plans include an abundance of fishing, hunting and camping along with some travel and attention to his "honey do" list.

Last of a Breed

Farm Manager Poole Ends Long NIH Career

By Rich McManus

He'll tell you he's leaving because the trees on his farm have grown so tall he can no longer see the fireworks display every July 4 over Leesburg, Va., some 3 miles—as the crow flies—across the Potomac River. But Jim Poole, manager of the NIH Animal Center's ungulate (hooved animal) section, retired June 1 for another reason that he's just as frank about: "There's nothing left here for me to do. I like to be working, and it's hard to stay busy."

Jim Poole, manager of the NIH Animal Center's ungulate (hooved animal) section, retired June 1.

Poole, 58, scion of the family that founded Poolesville (he can trace his family back nine generations, to at least 1669; they call anyone who's moved in since 1850 "new people") has lived on the 600-acre NIHAC farm—which used to be owned by his great-grandfather—for the past 30 years. He calls leaving the little 3-bedroom cinderblock 1930's-era tenant house—located just beneath the farm's signature golf-tee water tower—"the hardest part about retirement."

The oldest of six kids, Poole grew up just down the road, and hunted quail and pheasant on the half-wooded tract as a kid, "but I never shot one." He learned to raise sheep—just as his father and grandfather did—and fondly recalls riding draft horses around the family garden. "I sat on the collar of the horse to keep his head up—at age 3." Poole attended Poolesville public schools from elementary through high school (his dad had done the same thing—but in a single building), then went to the University of Maryland, majoring in agricultural business.

He was drafted into the Army during Vietnam, but opted to serve in the National Guard, where he trained as a medic. "Basically I was a farmer who handed out aspirin and Band-aids," he chuckles. While still in the Guard, he took a job at NIH as an animal caretaker in 1971, working in Bldg. 3 on the main campus.

"I wanted to be a farmer," he said. "I only took this government job to make enough money to buy a farm."

Within 2 months, he became a surgical technician, joining the pioneers of what would become human heart transplantation in a series of surgical theaters on Bldg. 3's 3rd floor. After 3 years working with dogs, which were the necessary animal model—"the attic in Bldg. 3 was full of them"—Poole transferred to Bldg. 100, known as The Barn, at NIHAC. He became a technician there in April 1974 and kept the same position until only 4 years ago, when he rose to farm manager in the ORS Division of Veterinary Resources.

"I was the last federal employee left standing," he says. "There's not much call for ungulates anymore—mules, horses, burros—but we still have lots of sheep and pigs. They're too expensive to maintain, and the science has gone in another direction."

During the farm's heyday—the mid-1960's through the mid-1980's, he says—he took care of 120 burros, 20 horses (many of them retired from the U.S. Army's Ft. Myers) and many hundreds of pigs and sheep. Now there are fewer than 90 animals and the caretaking staff has been more than halved.

In addition to the animals, Poole was responsible for Bldg. 100, the dairy barn (T1), the sheep shed (T2), the hay barn (T5) and a variety of "loafing" and machine sheds. He also developed an expertise in removing the pineal glands from sheep brains and collected countless gallons of blood from a variety of animals that underwent plasmapheresis under his hand.

When he wasn't busy working—which could sometimes involve herding escaped burros all night long or fending off the incursions of wild dogs and coyotes—Poole had a full menu of family activities and hobbies to occupy him. He met his wife when he joined her then-husband's regiment in a Civil War reenactment in the early 1970's.

"I was a surgeon in the Confederate Army," he explains. "They made me one due to my Guard training. My great-great-grandfather had served in the 35th Virginia Cavalry. And a bunch of my distant uncles and cousins just jumped over the river and joined the Confederate Army." Poole said his town sided with the Rebel cause because so many had intermarried with families on the Virginia side of the river.

A wry, genial and soft-spoken man, he makes light of his Rebel and Vietnam-era past: "I

belonged to two different armies—and lost both wars!"

As he sits in his narrow office on a coolish morning in May, he fingers the buttons on a Union army wool vest he sewed. "I always put at least one button from a real uniform on there—this one's about 145 years old," he says. The silk-and-metal "keep" at the back of the vest is also genuine.

A relic hunter all his life, Poole has a small museum's worth of bullets, belt buckles, coins, cannonballs, muskets and ration cans. On his computer is a 600-page draft of a book about local Civil War action, focusing on the Medley District, an old voting precinct near Beallsville. It has taken him a decade to write and he's still paring it down.

He gave up reenactments about 10 years ago (the highlight was his appearance, in closeup, in the 1993 film *Gettysburg*) and survived a bout of colon cancer 3 years ago, yet plans an active retirement. Since 1985, he has been restoring an old freed-slave cabin in a rural enclave on South Mountain dubbed Bagtown. When his mother-in-law died, he inherited a house in Frederick that he threatens to convert partially into a putt-putt golf course.

"I tease my wife that I'll be the pro. She's still working, and is pretty ticked that I'm retiring."

On quiet evenings on the NIH farm, Poole learned to build dollhouses, a hobby that he will continue.

He considers himself lucky to have lived his dream, on ancestral property. "I just fell into it," he said. "If you find a job you like, you stay with it." While some are surprised he remained in the same job so long, he notes, "My DNA is in the soil—because I bled on it a lot!"

After 37 years of federal service, Poole has saved enough to buy land, if not the farm of his dreams; he owns two rural acres in West Virginia and 3 more in Washington County, Md. It's not enough to farm, but he's not complaining.

Like many retirees, he jokes that he "knows where all the bodies are buried," but in this case he's not kidding. "There's an old slave graveyard in the woods on the south side of the farm [on a preserve that will never be developed]."

Though volumes of institutional memory retire with him, Poole says not to worry. With so much family in the area, he will always return.

NIMH's Radke-Yarrow Mourned, Studied Resilience, Altruism, Depression in Children

By Jules Asher

Dr. Marian Radke-Yarrow, chief of NIMH's Laboratory of Developmental Psychology from 1974 to 1995 died May 19 of cancer at age 89. During those years, many area families paid visits to Wilson House (Bldg. 15K), a warm, wooded refuge amid NIH's biomedical environs, to participate in her pioneering research on depression, resilience and altruism in children.

In a naturalistic study over two decades, Radke-Yarrow showed how depression in a parent can affect a child's mental health. Researchers unobtrusively videotaped family interactions through 2-way mirrors in a second-floor observational laboratory that looked like a homey apartment. They then systematically analyzed the tapes, pinpointing behaviors that transmitted risk for later development of mood disorders in the children.

For example, compared with healthy mothers, depressed mothers tended to be less communicative, more negative and less able to make compromises or be supportive of their children's strivings toward independence. Fathers' interactions were also factored in, as were reciprocal child-parent effects. Radke-Yarrow published her results in *Children of Depressed Mothers: From Early Childhood to Maturity* in 1998.

Even though the subjects knew they were being videotaped, they eventually responded in their characteristic ways to structured situations designed to elicit the behaviors, recalled Paul Jordan, who worked as a videographer in the lab. The longitudinal data is still being used by intramural genetics researchers. Since blood samples were also collected, they can also re-analyze them for new insights made possible by modern gene-typing technologies.

"Marian captured the dynamic interplay of nature and nurture prospectively in an unfolding developmental context," said Dr. Carolyn Zahn-Waxler, who joined the lab in the 1970s and studied how children develop empathy. Their studies showed that even 1-year-old children could demonstrate concern for others in distress, refuting previous assumptions that such altruistic ability did not develop prior to age 6. Radke-Yarrow's studies also revealed that children as young as 5 can suffer from depression.

Radke-Yarrow was among the first delegation of U.S. social scientists to visit China in 1973, publishing a book on her studies of communist child-rearing, *Childhood in China*, in 1975. She also studied the connection between nutrition and behavioral functioning in Mexico, Kenya and Egypt.

Prior to joining NIMH in 1953, she taught psychology at MIT, Queens College and the University of Denver and studied anti-Semitism and racial prejudice. *They Learn What They Live: Prejudice in Young Children* (1952), a book she co-authored, was cited as evidence in the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* U.S. Supreme Court decision on school desegregation.

The Wisconsin native received her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, where she later endowed a fellowship in child development.

Among many honors she received were a 10-year MacArthur Foundation grant to head a research group studying early development, and the G. Stanley Hall Award, the American Psychological Association's highest honor. She also served as president of the APA's division of developmental psychology.

She was married to the late Dr. Leon Yarrow, a psychologist at NIMH from 1949 until his death in 1982.

digest

Dog owners who regularly walk their pooches had a lower body mass index, weighing about 6 pounds less than dog owners who don't walk their dogs.

Faster Trials for Alzheimer's

Early results from the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI), a public-private research partnership organized by NIH and supported by NIA, show that Alzheimer's researchers may be able to reduce the time and expense associated with clinical trials. Presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference on the Prevention of Dementia held in Washington this month, these preliminary findings from ADNI show how it might yield improved methods and uniform standards for imaging and biomarker analysis, enabling these techniques to be employed in the fight against the disease.

On the Cancer Case

According to scientists from NIDCD and NCI, among other collaborators, a blood test that detects proteins commonly released by a growing tumor could eventually become a useful tool for monitoring the effectiveness of chemotherapy and radiation treatment in people with advanced throat cancer. The study, published in the June 1 issue of *Clinical Cancer Research*, found that throat cancer patients who showed a decline in several cancer-related proteins following chemotherapy and radiation treatment were more likely to remain in remission, while those who experienced a large rise over time in those proteins often exhibited a throat cancer return. Researchers say these findings could help lead to the development of a blood test that allows doctors to detect the recurrence of throat cancer early on, when a second line of treatment—such as surgery or drug therapy—is still viable.

New Insights into Tumor Development

Meanwhile, NCI researchers have discovered a set of genes that are turned on—or expressed—at high levels only in the blood vessels that feed tumors in mice and humans. Published in the June issue of *Cancer Cell*, the findings offer new insights into an important aspect of tumor development. These genes, and the proteins they encode, aren't just of scientific interest; they're important new potential targets for novel drugs that could selectively cut off a tumor's blood supply without affecting the blood vessels of healthy tissues, overcoming one of the major concerns of current anticancer therapies targeted at blood vessel growth.

Potential Relief for Fibromyalgia Pain

New NIAMS-supported research shows that gabapentin, an anticonvulsant medication used for certain types of seizures, can be an effective treatment for pain and other symptoms associated with fibromyalgia, a common disorder that is often difficult to treat. The results of the research, published in the April issue of *Arthritis & Rheumatism*, showed that in a clinical trial, those participants taking gabapentin at dosages of 1,200 to 2,400 mg daily for 12 weeks displayed significantly less pain than those taking a placebo, and also reported significantly better sleep and less fatigue. Previous research had shown that the medication had a robust effect on pain caused by a heightened response to stimuli related to inflammation of nerve injury in animal models of chronic pain syndromes; the new research indicates it has the same effect in people with fibromyalgia. The chronic disorder affects 3 million to 6 million Americans, mostly women.

Staying Fit with Fido

Finally, dogs have earned one more gold star supporting their "man's best friend" reputation. In a San Diego State University study funded by NIH, researchers reported that dog owners who walk their pets are more active and less overweight than those who don't. In fact, of the dog owners in the study—a larger project surveying physical activity in different kinds of neighborhoods—those who regularly walk Spike and Daisy had a lower body mass index, weighing about 6 pounds less than dog owners who don't walk their dogs. The CDC recommends that people get 2.5 hours of physical activity each week; walking their dogs helped 43 percent of the dog-owning, dog-walking study participants meet that goal.—**compiled by Sarah Schmelling**

letters

Tales from the Darkened Side

Dear Editor,

As reported in the May 18 issue of the *NIH Record*, a fire emergency was declared in Bldg. 37 on Apr. 23. However, while the Fire Department declared the emergency over at 9:15 p.m., only emergency power was restored immediately. In fact, power was restored more than 2 full days later, only to be cut off again that afternoon and again on Apr. 28 to allow repairs to be completed. Thus began another chapter in the storied history of the venerable Bldg. 37, creating some special memories for all those who were present on the Week the Lights Went Out.

As power outages go, this one was unusual: power was out only on the south side of the building, and only on floors 2 through 6, creating the haves and have-nots or, better yet, the Light and the Dark Side on each floor. It also created a DMZ line of labs between the Light and the Dark where lights were out but all the power strips and equipment were on, so experiments proceeded under emergency lighting. In other labs, the lights and power outlets were on but the network and telephones were out.

For the unsuspecting Dark Siders, we came in on the morning of the 24th expecting a normal day at work and quickly found anything but normality. While emergency lights and -80-degree emergency-generator freezers were functional, smaller freezers and refrigerators that had lost power the evening before were already at room temperature. Therefore, amid the cacophony of unsynchronized machine and freezer alarms going off and with the much-coveted "Light" just a few feet away down the corridor, everyone obsessed with how to access the salvation outlets that would save fridge and freezer contents.

Solutions varied from lab to lab, corridor, hallway and floor. The resourceful found the emergency outlets and connected to the emergency generators; the straightforward resorted to rolling, dragging or carrying under-counter fridges and freezers to the Light side; the organized invested large sums of money in acquiring miles and miles of extension cords and ran them north to south along the walls of the corridors; the practical emptied the contents of refrigerators and freezers and moved them into labs that had available space; and the lunatic just drew one extension line and connected many surge protectors to it, and several fridges and freezers to those, creating a tangled web of power cords that threatened to short-circuit the rest of the building's power.

Furthermore, the loss of power gave the Dark Siders a taste of life without the trappings of modern technology or power—no telephone lines, no lights, no network or wireless network. Thus, the simplest of tasks became a challenge and the simplest of experiments required creativity and networking. Finding what floor had an ice machine or a dark room with a film developer that was plugged in to the Light side required connections and word of mouth. It also forced people from various labs and floors to interact, a feat that socials, picnics and parties fail to achieve. However, once the initial chaos was overcome, people settled in conference rooms, hallways or on empty lab benches and proceeded to work on whatever they could, given the circumstances.

But while we Dark Siders thought we had it rough, we had to spare a thought for our friends on the second floor who on Apr. 23 had been polishing posters and presentations for their quadrennial site visit scheduled the next day. One can only imagine the panic they were plunged into when the fire alarm went off, computers died and everyone was evacuated. The site-visit committee must have found it enlightening to read posters in half-lit hallways. Those are some of the tales from the Dark Side.

Nadim Majdalani
National Cancer Institute

You Can Go Home Again
Swallows Return to Campus Garage Abode
A family of swallows again occupies a nest in MLP-10 near Bldgs. 31 and 33. In the spirit of NIH's 'Go Greener' campaign, the new accommodations apparently reuse and recycle old building materials, having been constructed atop last year's abode. These photos appear to have caught the nestlings at feeding time.

PHOTOS: MAGGIE BARTLETT

Free Outdoor Film Festival, Aug. 10-19

The movie line-up has been announced for the 11th annual Comcast Film Festival, which will take place nightly from Friday, Aug. 10 to Sunday, Aug. 19. Come to the grounds of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and Strathmore and see movies on the big screen. Bring your blanket, chairs (low models only) and anyone who loves movies to this event. The films are free, food will be available to purchase and there will be a raffle to raise funds for the NIH charities (Friends of the Clinical Center, the Children's Inn and Camp Fantastic/Special Love).

Friday, Aug. 10—*Night at the Museum*

Saturday, Aug. 11—*Casino Royale*

Sunday, Aug. 12—*Over the Hedge*

Monday, Aug. 13—*The Wizard of Oz*

Tuesday, Aug. 14—*North By Northwest*

Wednesday, Aug. 15—*The Devil Wears Prada*

Thursday, Aug. 16—*Ocean's Eleven*

Friday, Aug. 17—*Dreamgirls*

Saturday, Aug. 18—*The Da Vinci Code*

Sunday, Aug. 19—*Happy Feet*

Food service starts at 6:30 p.m. and the movies begin at 8:30. For more information, visit www.filmfestnih.org or call (301) 496-6061. If you are interested in volunteering at the festival, contact Katie at the number above or email harriju@ors.od.nih.gov.

Hispanic TV Star Promotes NLM Site

Don Francisco, the popular host of the TV variety show *Sabado Gigante* (*Giant Saturday*) on Univision, has announced a joint effort with NLM to encourage Hispanics in the U.S. and abroad to consult MedlinePlus.gov/salud/ for their health information needs.

MedlinePlus includes information on more than 700 health topics, a guide to over-the-counter and prescription drugs and supplements, plus interactive tutorials and health-related news stories, among other features.

"Do you want to learn more about your health, quickly and easily?" Don Francisco asks Hispanic TV and radio audiences in public service announcements released in May. "It's simple. Visit MedlinePlus, the bilingual web site with the most complete and reliable health information in the world."

The charismatic host, whose real name is Mario Kreutzberger, has been described as the Spanish-speaking equivalent of Johnny Carson, Ed Sullivan or David Letterman. Produced in Miami, his *Sabado Gigante* reaches some 100 million viewers in 40 countries. It has been going strong without a rerun since 1962.

NLM is confident that Spanish speakers will be attracted to the MedlinePlus.gov/salud web site by the host of what is now the longest-running television variety show in the world.

To view examples of Don Francisco's 15- and 30-second TV public service announcements, go to www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/outreach/donfrancisco.html.

Make Way for...Goslings?

Here's due followup to our May 18 coverage of the resident Canada geese couple, who were then expecting a visit from the stork. Mom, dad and three goslings have been spotted all about campus, but particularly near apparent prime feeding ground—the Bldg. 1 lawn. In the photo above, the whole family is seen crossing Center Dr. from Bldg. 21 toward...lunch.

PHOTO: BELLE WARING